

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email through a communication line from a remote site, the email having been sent by a user and including a first identifier and data;

an accumulation unit which stores therein the data;

a printout unit;

an input unit which receives a second identifier entered by the user through direct operation thereof at a local site where said apparatus is installed; and

a control unit which controls said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier at the local site by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the second identifier matches the first identifier,

wherein said accumulation unit includes:

a private accumulation unit; and

an output accumulation unit,

wherein said control unit stores the data of the email including the first identifier in said private accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier at the local site by reading the data from said private accumulation unit if the second identifier matches the first identifier, and stores data of email failing to include the first identifier in said output accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data stored in said output accumulation unit at the local site immediately after the storing of the data in said output accumulation unit.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication unit is connected to the Internet and at least one of a facsimile line and a local area network.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the first identifier is an identifier specifying a sender, an identifier specifying a destination, or an identifier specifying both the sender and the destination.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said accumulation unit further includes a storage accumulation unit, and said control unit stores data of email including a storage identifier in said storage accumulation unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said control unit transmits the data stored in the accumulation unit through said communication unit in response to the first identifier.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a format conversion unit which converts a format of the data stored in said accumulation unit.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a facsimile apparatus.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a printer apparatus.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a digital copier that includes at least one of a facsimile function and a printer function.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, constituting part of a computer.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is deleted when a first predetermined time period passes after the storing of the data in the accumulation unit.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the data stored in the accumulation unit is deleted when a second predetermined time period passes after the data is read from the accumulation unit.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first predetermined time period and the second predetermined time period are set flexibly in response to an available memory space of said accumulation unit.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a copyright management unit which prints information about copyright on a printout of the data if the data has copyright information attached thereto.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said copyright management unit makes record of a royalty fee associated with use of the copyright.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein a print position and print size of said information about copyright is adjustable.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a random number generation unit;

a number record unit which stores therein a random number generated by said random number generation unit as a password;

a password record unit which is provided as nonvolatile memory as part of said accumulation unit, and stores therein the password; and

a permission unit which allows access to the data of said accumulation unit if the password stored in said number record unit matches the password stored in said password record unit at a time of power on.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising an encryption unit which encrypts the password.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said random number generation unit generates a new random number each time power is turned on, and the new random number is stored in said password record unit as a password.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the password is updated upon passage of a predetermined time period after the password is recorded in the password record unit.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication unit receives by email a transfer identifier including the first identifier and a transfer destination email address, and said control unit reads the data corresponding to the first identifier included in the transfer identifier from the accumulation unit, followed by transferring the read data to the transfer destination email address.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said control unit generates a transfer identifier including the second identifier and an email address of said apparatus if no data stored in said accumulation unit corresponds to the second identifier, and sends the generated transfer identifier to at least one other apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus.

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said accumulation unit includes:

a private accumulation unit; and

an output accumulation unit,

wherein said control unit stores the data of the email including the first identifier in said private accumulation unit, and stores data of email failing to include the first identifier in said output accumulation unit to control said printout unit to print the data stored in said output accumulation unit immediately after the storing of the data in said output accumulation unit.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said control unit attaches, to the generated transfer identifier, an instruction requesting that data be transferred by email including no first identifier.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control unit controls said printout unit according to instructions of a processing instruction text, and transfers the data and the processing instruction text to another apparatus identical to the claimed apparatus if the email includes the processing instruction text.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said processing instruction text includes a description of one or more addresses of one or more transfer destination apparatuses.

Claim 28 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said processing instruction text includes a description of page numbers and a number of printed copies.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising processing definition unit which stores therein abbreviated transfer destinations and corresponding unabbreviated transfer destinations, wherein said control unit refers to said processing definition unit if a destination specified in the processing instruction text is described by an abbreviation, and converts the abbreviation of the destination into an unabbreviated destination.

Claim 30 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising a relevant transfer destination record unit which stores therein information regarding positions of transfer destinations and availability of data transfer; and

an optimum route selection unit which refers to said relevant transfer destination record unit to select an optimum route, and changes a description of a transfer destination in the processing instruction text according to the selected optimum route.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): An apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which receives email through a communication line, the email having been sent by a user and including data;

an accumulation unit which stores therein the data;

a printout unit;

an input unit which receives a first identifier entered by the user through direct operation thereof; and

a control unit which generates a second identifier corresponding to the data, and sends the second identifier to the user by email via the communication unit, said control unit controlling said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the second identifier by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the first identifier matches the second identifier.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second identifier is a numerical value generated based on date and time of reception of the email received by said communication unit.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second identifier is a numerical value including a check digit generated by predetermined rules.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the email received by said communication unit includes a third identifier, and said input unit receives a fourth identifier entered by the user in addition to the first identifier, said controlling unit controlling said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the second identifier by reading the data from said accumulation unit if the first identifier matches the second identifier and if the third identifier matches the fourth identifier.